

Support the Opioid Settlement Accountability Act

OVER
75%

... of the nearly 107,000 drug overdose deaths in 2021 involved an **opioid**.

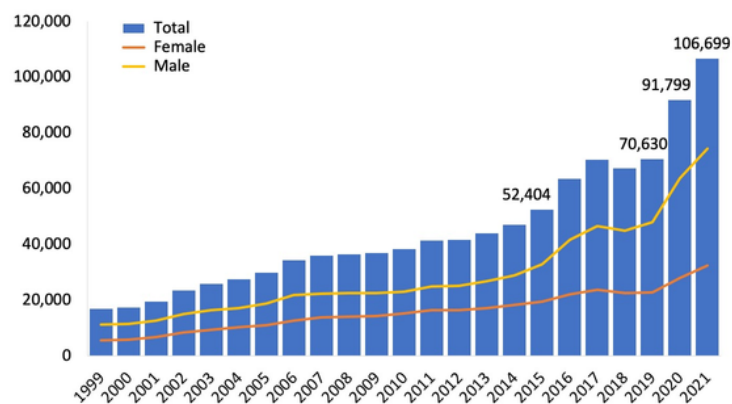
www.cdc.gov

Why Opioid Settlement Legislation is Needed NOW:

Opioid deaths are increasing.

- In 2022, more than two thirds of the reported 107,081 drug overdose deaths in the United States involved synthetic opioids, namely illicitly manufactured fentanyl.
- ABC news reports that a growing number of street drugs, such as cocaine and non-prescribed Adderall, contain fentanyl. Illicit drugmakers allegedly lace their products with fentanyl to encourage repeat drug use.

Figure 1. National Drug-Involved Overdose Deaths*, Number Among All Ages, by Gender, 1999-2021



*Includes deaths with underlying causes of unintentional drug poisoning (X40-X44), suicide drug poisoning (X60-X64), homicide drug poisoning (X85), or drug poisoning of undetermined intent (Y10-Y14), as coded in the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2021 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 1/2023.

Some opioid settlement funds are not being spent to address the ongoing opioid crisis.

- Opioid settlements have reached \$55.79 Billion, however, many of these funds are not being used to address the opioid crisis.
- CNN and KFF Health News report that Greene County in northeastern Tennessee has collected more than \$2.7 Million from regional and national opioid settlements, yet \$2.4 Million of these funds have been allocated to paying off the county's debt, and \$50,000 of these opioid funds were used to purchase a "litter crew vehicle."
- We should learn our lesson from the tobacco settlements in the 1990's. Many states used money they received for transportation projects and balancing budgets instead of prevention efforts. Opioid settlement funds must be used to help fight the epidemic and not as a slush fund for politicians.

Our legislation will serve as a guardrail, ensuring money from settlements related to the opioid crisis are used for treatment, prevention, education and enforcement.

If you have questions or would like to add your boss, please reach out to Margaret McInnis with Rep. Kaptur at 5-4146 or Margaret.McInnis@mail.house.gov, or Philippa Bradley with Rep. Hinson at 5-2911 or Philippa.Bradley@mail.house.gov